

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009707

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ILO, AORG, PFOR

SUBJECT: ILO - POSSIBLE VENEZUELAN CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR-
SHIP OF ILO

REF: CARACAS 442, 418

1. EMBASSY HAS TAKEN CORRECT LINE IN THIS MATTER. A VENEZUELAN CANDIDACY, PARTICULARLY ONE FROM A COPEI CABINET MINISTER, HAS LITTLE CHANCE OF ATTRACTING ANY SUPPORT OUTSIDE OF A HANDFUL OF LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATES. IT SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED.

2. THIS ELECTION WILL BE CONDUCTED BY SECRET BALLOT IN THE ILO GOVERNING BODY, PROBABLY NEAR THE END OF FEBRUARY.

THERE WILL BE 47 VOTES; 23 CAST BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, 12 BY WORKER REPRESENTATIVES, AND 12 BY EMPLOYER

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REPRESENTATIVES. LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED

ARE ARGENTINA, JAMAICA, MEXICO, AND PANAMA. LA EMPLOYERS COME FROM ARGENTINA AND CHILE. SOLE LATIN WORKER REP IS COME FROM ARGENTINA AND CHILE. SOLE LATIN WORKER REP IS FROM MEXICO, AND WOULD NOT, RPT NOT, VOTE FOR MEMBER OF PRESENT VENEZUELAN GOVT. THIS WOULD GIVE MARTINI A MAXIMUM OF 6 LA VOTES (24 REQUIRED).

3. WORKERS GROUP OF GOVERNING BODY WHEN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE CANDIDACY OF PRESIDENT CALDERA, WAS UNITED AND ADAMANT IN STATING IT WULD OPPOSE ANY VENEZUELAN CANDIDATE COMING FROM COPEI PARTY. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO BE ELECTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ILO IN THE FACE OF SOLID WORKER OPPOSITION. EVEN THOUGH WORKERS CONTROL ONLY ONE-QUARTER OF THE VOTES, THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE GOVERNING BODY WOULD BE UNWILLING TO GO AGAINST A SOLID WORKER FRONT.

4. EMBASSY IS CORRECT IN EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE IN THIS ELECTION OF BEING KNOWN IN INTERNATIONAL, AND PARTICULARLY IN ILO GB CIRCLES. THE ILO IS JUST NOW EMERGING FROM ITS MOST TURBULENT AND DIFFICULT PERIOD, AND THE GOVERNING BODY WILL INSIST ON KNOWING THE MAN IT ELECTS TO PUT THE ORGANIZATION BACK ON THE TRACKS. AN UNKNOWN OUTSIDER HAS LITTLE OR NO CHANCE TO GET SUPPORT.

5. THERE ARE TWO FORMALLY ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES AT PRESENT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FRANCIS BLANCHARD (FRANCE) AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL ALBERT TEVOEDJRE (DAHOMY). DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THE CHOICE WILL BE BETWEEN THESE TWO, AND IS CURRENTLY IN PROCESS OF DETERMINING WHICH THE US SHOULD SUPPORT. SHOULD A DEADLOCK DEVELOP, THERE ARE THREE WELL KNOWN AND RESPECTED POTENTIAL CANDIDATES WAITING IN THE WINGS, EAGER TO STEP IN.

6. FRENCH AND ENGLISH ARE THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE ILO. ALTHOUGH KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH AND ENGLISH NOT REQUIRED BY REGULATION, IT WOULD BE AWKWARD AND EMBARRASSING TO HAVE A DG WHO COULD NOT COMMUNICATE IN EITHER OF THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES.

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7. EMBASSY MAY USE ANY PART OF ABOVE GUIDANCE IT CHOOSES IN DISCOURAGING CANDIDACY OF MARTINI . RUSH

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